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admissible on account of the presence of the *st*, although the derivation of Austrasia, Ost-Reich, Austria, is admitted. The form Niwistria (Neu-Westreich) would seem preferable. (See Ann. Fuldenses.) Page 72: Apropos to the war between Chilperic and Sigebert, the author should have cited the account in the Hist. Epitom., c. 71. Page 127: The comes palatii has been specially studied in a work of Pernice. De comitibus palatii, Halle, 1863. Page 169: Gregory of Tours mentions Strasburg long before the diploma of Childeric II. in 660 (Greg. Tur., IX. 36).

If Dr. Richter wishes to be complete and impartial, he should have mentioned the Histoire des Institutions Mérovingiennes par Lehuerou among the French works on this period. Some points are really well treated in it. The same remark applies to the works of Guizot and Guérard. After showing that modern German science has upset most of the theories of the old French historical school represented by Montesquieu, the author adds, p. 111: "So ist durch die Waffen des deutschen Geistes der altdeutsche Staat von demselben Gegner zurückerobert worden, dessen Niederlagen in Felde uns das deutsche Reich und lange entfremdete Reichslände zurückgebracht haben." These political allusions are out of place in a genuinely scientific work. Moreover the theories especially upset by the latest German historical school have been those of their own great historian of Germanic institutions, Eichhorn.

Dr. Richter has, however, made an excellent book, and we wait with impatience the publication of his next volume.

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14. — *Regesta Pontificum Romanorum inde ab anno MCXCVIII ad a. MCCCIV*. Edidit AUGUSTUS POTTHAST. Berolini. MDCCCLXXIII. IV Fascic.

JAFFÉ, who died a professor of the University of Berlin, began the papal Regesta, and carried the work down to the year 1198. He published this portion in the year 1851 in a single quarto volume. It has since been continued by Potthast, who took up at the year 1198 the task which had been interrupted by the death of Jaffé, and has carried it on to the year 1241. This second part, extremely important for the history of the struggle between the Church and the Empire, includes the Pontificates of Innocent III., Honorius III., and Gregory IX.

The Regesta are of extremely ancient origin. They were books in which notaries copied the letters addressed by the Popes to

bishops, to sovereigns, or to simple followers; in short, all their official acts. When the Papacy took its great development these books became indispensable; but the date of their commencement is not precisely known. The earliest which has survived is that of Gregory I.; but two centuries earlier, Boniface I. already alludes to collections of this kind which must have been in use among his predecessors. Yet it was only under the successors of Gregory I. that the custom became established in the Roman chancery of preserving, in special registers, copies of the official acts of each Pope. Time has spared but a small number of them. From Gregory I. to Innocent III. we have only fragments of *Regesta*. After Innocent III. the *Regesta* of all the Popes are extant.

The collection composed by Jaffé and Potthast forms a summary history of each Pontiff since Saint Peter; or rather it is an abridgment of the particular *Regesta* of each, restored according to the most authentic sources and the most authoritative documents. The authors mention the circumstances of the accession and the death of each Pope, give an analysis of the councils which he held, of his decrees, his letters, even when they are lost and have to be restored by means of the historical sources in which they are mentioned. In this immense undertaking, no useful source has been neglected; everything has been explored; bulls, pontifical letters, councils, canons, the public records of cities, bishoprics, churches, monasteries, local histories; nothing seems to have escaped the authors, and they have made an excellent use of everything. The chronology, which is sometimes so troublesome, is perfectly established, not only for the important passages in the lives of the Popes, but even for their smallest letters. Every statement of fact is followed by an indication of the sources which prove its existence, and a special index of all the sources cited is prefixed to the volume.

This book is a sure guide, by whose aid any one may follow, without fear of error, the history of the Popes, year by year, month by month, and often week by week. It is therefore an indispensable instrument to every one who studies history critically and scientifically; it is absolutely necessary for ecclesiastical history, since the official records of the Roman chancery are much scattered, and in some cases have been published with too little care for critical accuracy; it is useful for political history, since it establishes the relations between Popes and kings, as well as purely religious matters; and finally, it is an abundant and extremely rich mine for the history of canonical law.